

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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APPROVED BY ARA:WLUERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 221052

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MARR, BF

SUBJECT:NASSAU'S 1439

1. YOU MAY INFORM MENNELL THAT USG WELCOMES IDEA OF CONSULTATION WITH UK ON BAHAMAS FACILITIES NEGOTIATIONS AS WE HAVE IN THE PAST. (FYI. WE CONTINUE TO ANTICIPATE SEPARATE, BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH GCOB, AND PROPOSED CONSULTATIONS WITH THE UK ARE NOT REPEAT NOT EXPECTED TO LEAD TO TRILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS. END FYI.) WE PREFER WASHINGTON AS SITE FOR TALKS BECAUSE OF READY ACCESS TO FULL DOD EXPERTISE ON FACILITIES. WE ANTICIPATE THEY WOULD BE CHAIRED BY EITHER ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS, OR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS. US SIDE WOULD INCLUDE DOD AND COGARD REPS, AS WELL AS YOURSELF.

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2. AS YOU KNOW, INTERESTED WASHINGTON AGENCIES ARE IN PROCESS OF ORGANIZING WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP NEGOTIATING STRATEGIES AND QUID PACKAGE FOR THE GCOB. DEPENDING ON PROGRESS MADE BY THIS GROUP, WE ANTICIPATE BEING READY IN ABOUT ONE MONTH FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE UK WHICH, WE HOPE WILL BE BRIEF.

3. REGARDING TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTATIONS, WE WOULD HOPE TO HAVE CANDID DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS OF OUR

WORKING GROUP, EXPLORE BRITISH OBJECTIVES, AND SEEK BEST WAY TO COORDINATE OUR STRATEGIES. WE CONCUR ENTIRELY IN YOUR VIEW THAT COORDINATION BETWEEN US AND UK ON THIS MATTER BE CONDUCTED WITH UTMOST DISCRETION TO AVOID PROVOKING GCOB CONCERN, AS WELL AS ANY PREMATURE DIVULGENCE OF US NEGOTIATING POSITION.

4. WE INTEND TO RAISE THIS MATTER EARLY NEXT WEEK WITH BRITISH EMBASSY HERE, PROVIDING SUBSTANCE OF THIS MESSAGE AND SUGGEST THAT DETAILS SUCH AS TIMING OF CONSULTATIONS BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY. SISCO

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